

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present Application in view of the Amendments and Request for Continued Examination enclosed herewith and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 124, 126-129, 131-137, 158-160, 163-174, 180-184, and 187-211 were pending. To expedite prosecution of certain specific embodiments of Applicants' invention, Applicants hereby cancel claims 124, 126-129, 131-137, 158-160, 163-174, 180-184, 187-199, 204-206, and 208-211 without acquiescence to any rejection and without prejudice to prosecution of the cancelled subject matter in a related divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application. Claims 200-203 and 207 have been amended to remove dependencies to the cancelled claims. No new subject matter has been added. Support for the amended claims may be found in the previously pending claims and throughout the specification, for example, at page 15, line 19 through page 16, line 26; and at page 17, lines 13-23. Accordingly, claims 200-203 and 207 are currently under examination.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner rejected claims 124, 133-137, 170-174, 180-184, 187-199, 204-206, and 208-209, alleging that the claims are anticipated by Merks (International Patent Application Publication No. WO 94/05703).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 124, 133-137, 170-174, 180-184, 187-199, 204-206, and 208-209 is rendered moot in view of the Amendments submitted herewith, which include cancellation of these claims without acquiescence or prejudice.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner objected to claims 127-129, 200-203, and 207 for depending on a rejected base claim. The Examiner states that these claims are free of the prior art.

The basis for the objection to claims 127-129 has been obviated in view of the Amendments submitted herewith, which include cancellation of claims 127-129 without acquiescence or prejudice. Applicants have amended claims 200-203 and 207 to remove

dependency on a rejected base claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Applicants therefore submit that claims 200-203 and 207 meet the requirements for patentability. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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